

## Verb forms

In the first two chapters the verbs nearly all end **-at** (e.g. **par-at**); in this chapter verbs appear which end **-it** (e.g. **mitt-it**) and **-et** (e.g. **vid-et**).

Latin verbs fall into four classes called *conjugations*, which differ in the endings of their stems:

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1st conjugation | stems in <b>-a</b> , e.g. <b>para-t</b>        |
| 2nd conjugation | stems in <b>-e</b> , e.g. <b>mone-t</b>        |
| 3rd conjugation | stems ending in consonants, e.g. <b>reg-it</b> |
| 4th conjugation | stems in <b>-i</b> , e.g. <b>audi-t</b>        |

## Exercise 3.2

Pick out from the English translations below the ones which fit each of the following Latin words

- |         |         |            |            |
|---------|---------|------------|------------|
| 1 audit | 4 parat | 7 redit    | 10 laudat  |
| 2 venit | 5 vocat | 8 ascendit | 11 currit  |
| 3 videt | 6 sedet | 9 labōrat  | 12 salūtat |

she is working, he is coming, she is returning, he climbs, she sees, he is preparing,  
she calls, he is sitting, he runs, she praises, he is climbing, she greets, he hears

## Gender: masculine, feminine and neuter

You may already know that in French and Spanish and other modern languages, nouns are either *masculine* or *feminine* in gender. In Latin also nouns have genders.

Obviously **filius** (son) is masculine and **filia** (daughter) is feminine; but often the gender is not obvious, e.g. **cēna** (dinner) is feminine and **ager** (field) is masculine. And in Latin some nouns are *neuter* in gender, i.e. neither masculine nor feminine.

Nearly all nouns of the 1st declension with nominative ending **-a** (like **puell-a**) are feminine.

All nouns of the 2nd declension with nominative ending **-us** (like **colōn-us**) and **-er** (like **pu-er**, **ag-er**) are masculine, but there are also a fair number of neuter nouns; these have nominative and accusative **-um** e.g. **bell-um**.

Neuter nouns are not used regularly until chapter 10 but you should be aware of their existence.

## Exercise 3.3

Give the gender (*masculine or feminine or neuter*) of the following words (which are all in the nominative case)

**terra, puer, via, saxum, fābula, colōnus, bellum**

## Adjectives

Adjectives have masculine, feminine and neuter endings, and will be given in the vocabulary with all three genders, e.g.

<i>masc.</i>	<i>fem.</i>	<i>neuter</i>
<b>magn-us</b>	<b>magn-a</b>	<b>magn-um</b>

(this is abbreviated to: **magnus, -a, -um** in vocabulary lists).